(c) what is the total production so far achieved and whether Government has taken steps to check sugar prices;

(d) if so, to what extent they have been successful and whether Government had ensured that retail prices do not cross Rs. 25 per kg.; and

(e) whether Government has any plan to import sugar to meet the requirement of the people?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, AND FOOD PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The lower production of sugarcane with consequent lower production of sugar during the current sugar season 2008-09 has put pressure on open market prices of non-levy sugar. The retail price of sugar is in the range of Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per kilogram.

(b) Releases are made on the basis of requirement. The Central Government increased, the non-levy sugar quota for the quarter April-June, 2009 by 6 lakh tons.

(c) and (d) The production of sugar in the current sugar season till 30th June, 2009 is provisionally estimated at 145 lakh tons. The Central Government, with a view to check increase in sugar prices has, *inter-alia*, permitted duty free imports to augment domestic availability, imposed stockholding and turnover limits on sugar and suspended futures trading in sugar. These measures helped contain retail prices of sugar. Prices depend upon a number of factors like demand, supply, international prices, market sentiments etc.

(e) Duty free import of raw sugar by sugar mills under Open General Licence (OGL) up to 01.08.2009 and under Advance Authorization Scheme up to 30.09.2009 have been permitted. Designated agencies *viz*. STC, MMTC, PEC and NAFED have been permitted duty free import of up to 1 million ton of white/refined sugar under OGL.

Excessive use of fertilizers

*314. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidy policy is to be blamed for excessive use of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) the impact of such use during the last three years, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the reaction of farmers in Andhra Pradesh and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The fertilizer subsidy regime has successfully ensured availability of subsidized fertilizers to the farmers at affordable prices. It has also contributed positively towards increase in consumption of chemical fertilizers in the country.

Farmers exhibit a preference for subsidized fertilizers because of price consideration ignoring the requirements and importance of micro-nutrients so essential for increase in productivity. Imbalanced and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers coupled with low content of organic manure over the years has resulted in widespread multi-micro nutrient deficiencies. The deficiencies of secondary and micro-nutrient in the soil do have a limiting impact on the overall productivity response to fertilizer usage in the country, which has nearly stagnated during the last few years. There has been an increase in awareness among farmers including those of Andhra Pradesh to the above mentioned problems.

The per hectare consumption of fertilizers (NPK) in various states including Andhra Pradesh during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is provided in the Statement-I (*See* below). Further, the per hectare yield .for various States during 2005-06, 2006-07 is also provided in the Statement-II (*See* below). The State-wise, consumption ratio of NPK during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 is provided in the Statement-III.

Statement-I

Statewise consumption of fertilizers (NPK) – kg/ha

State/Union Territory	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
1	2	3	4
South Zone			
Andhra Pradesh	199.5	185.9	203.9
Karnataka	115.7	114.1	119.1
Kerala	69.8	70	67.6
Tamil Nadu	178.3	186.5	186.7
Pondicherry	1032.5	1226.1	1091.8
Andaman and Nicobar	18.9	13.3	12.6
West Zone			
Gujarat	143.6	124.6	115.5
Madhya Pradesh	66.4	61.5	46.6
Chhattisgarh	76.9	75.9	65.5
Maharashtra	103.1	100.1	88
Rajasthan	45.5	43.1	41.9
Goa	41.9	35	32.7
Daman and Diu	156.7	163.3	–
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	36.4	44.6	39

1	2	3	4
North Zone			
Haryana	187.6	173	175.7
Punjab	210	209.2	209.1
Uttar pradesh	149.6	148.4	140.8
Uttaranchal	118.9	113.1	93.6
Himachal Pradesh	53.1	52.1	48.8
Jammu and Kashmir	71.8	78.9	83.7
Delhi	8.9	23.6	10
East Zone			
Bihar	162.8	144.7	117.8
Jharkhand	68.5	65.5	65
Orissa	51.8	46.2	45.3
West Bengal	144.2	143.2	131.9
North-East Zone			
Assam	57.3	54.6	52.5
Tripura	41.2	55.3	44.9
Manipur	85.2	85.5	59.7
Meghalaya	15.8	19.9	18.5
Nagaland	2.2	38.1	1.6
Arunachal Pradesh	2.7	2.7	2.9
Mizoram	39.9	38.1	23.8
Sikkim			2.8
ALL INDIA	117.1	112.3	106.5

Statement-II

State-wise Yield of foodgrain during 2006-07 and 2005-06 in respect of major foodgrain producing States

State	2006-07 Yield – Kg/ha	2005-06 Yield – Kg/ha
1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	2056	2058

1	2	3
Punjab	4017	3984
Andhra Pradesh	2232	2364
West Bengal	2511	2424
Haryana	3393	3044
Rajasthan	1119	920
Madhya Pradesh	1167	1130
Maharashtra	941	948
Bihar	1657	1311
Karnataka	1289	1775
Tamil Nadu	2606	1846
Orissa	1359	1348
Gujarat	1422	1549
Chhattisgarh	1148	1109
Jharkhand	1550	1073
Assam	1286	1415
Uttarakhand	1758	1544
ALL INDIA	1756	1715

Statement-III

State-wise consumption Ratio of N, P_2O_5 and K_2O

State	2006-07			2007-08 (Provisional)		
	N	P_2O_5	K_2O	N	P_2O_5	K_2O
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Arunachal Pradesh	5.0	2.1	1	5.0	2.0	1
Assam	2.1	1.0	1	1.8	1.0	1
Bihar	9.7	2.2	1	11.0	2.3	1
Jharkhand	21.4	9.7	1	9.2	4.7	1
Manipur	10.9	2.8	1	11.0	2.6	1
Meghalaya	12.3	8.1	1	7.7	3.7	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mizoram	2.2	1.9	1	2.1	1.2	1
Nagaland	4.0	3.0	1	3.9	2.1	1
Orissa	4.8	1.7	1	4.3	1.9	1
Sikkim	7.0	3.7	1			1
Tripura	4.1	1.5	1	3.4	1.2	1
West Bengal	2.3	1.3	1	2.2	1.3	1
Haryana	47.3	13.4	1	39.8	10.9	1
Himachal Pradesh	3.9	1.3	1	3.7	1.0	1
Jammu and Kashmir	8.1	3.5	1	11.9	3.6	1
Punjab	33.7	9.2	1	34.3	9.0	1
Uttar Pradesh	16.8	5.2	1	15.1	4.5	1
Uttarakhand	12.0	2.8	1	11.2	2.4	1
Delhi	82.0	21.0	1	30.0	8.0	1
Andhra Pradesh	4.4	2.1	1	3.8	1.7	1
Karnataka	2.6	1.5	1	2.4	1.2	1
Kerala	1.2	0.6	1	1.3	0.6	1
Tamil Nadu	2.2	1.0	1	1.8	0.7	1
Pondicherry	3.3	1.5	1	2.3	1.0	1
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.3	7.0	1	3.3	3.0	1
Gujarat	7.7	3.0	1	7.2	2.9	1
Madhya Pradesh	11.2	6.3	1	10.5	5.7	1
Chhattisgarh	5.7	2.4	1	5.2	2.2	1
Maharashtra	3.3	1.8	1	3.0	1.5	1
Rajasthan	51.2	19.9	1	33.7	12.5	1
Goa	1.7	0.9	1	1.9	1.0	1
Daman and Diu	42.0	6.0	1	12.7	2.0	1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12.0	7.8	1	11.4	8.0	1
ALL INDIA	5.9	2.4	1	5.5	2.1	1